

E1-1543

vjr



June 6, 2005

Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: DM&E Railroad Proposed Expansion Project

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am a resident of Rochester, Minnesota, and am a native of this city. I purchased a home at 1309 East Center Street twelve years ago. My husband and I have made improvements over the years, and have flower beds that took years to establish that are now the envy of the neighbors and something we really enjoy. We are very happy here. We enjoy our porch and listening to the birds in our backyard. It is one of the oldest neighborhoods in Rochester, with homes that were built in the 1910's and 1920's that have been well-taken care of. They have character.

With the knowledge of the possibility of DM&E Railroad expanding its line into the Powder River Basin and upgrading the line to accommodate approximately 33 trains per day, my husband and I are uncertain of our future in this neighborhood and the future of the neighborhood itself. If the DM&E expansion becomes reality, I see no alternative but to move away. The increased rail traffic noise, vibration, and pollution will make the area undesirable. The fate of an established neighborhood, a section of Rochester's population, and its history rests on this decision. I fear that the result of an expansion will be decline and crime--in a word, a ghetto.

Taking into account the environmental impact your decision has on Southeastern Minnesota's most densely populated area is something I hope you will give all the consideration it deserves.

Sincerely yours,

Linda Sybrant